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STATEMENT FROM FLORIDA ENERGY COMMISSION ON APRIL 6 CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT ISSUED BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

This morning, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its Fourth Assessment Report, which paints a grim picture not only of future effects of climate change, but of the damage it already has inflicted. Tommy Borroughs, Florida Energy Commission Chairman, issued the following statement concerning this report.

“The Florida Energy Commission takes nothing more seriously than its charge to provide the Florida Legislature with sound energy policy recommendations to secure Florida’s energy future. The IPCC’s report is an important addition to the increasing body of knowledge on climate change.

“The report states that North America is projected to experience ‘reduced summer flows, exacerbating competition for over-allocated water resources,’ and ‘disturbances from pests, diseases, and fire...projected to have increasing impacts on forests, with an extended period of high fire risk...’ It also predicts the likelihood of increased intense tropical storm activity, and increased losses to coastal wetlands and damage from coastal flooding.

“The IPCC’s report also states that ‘a wide array of adaptation options is available, but more extensive adaptation than is currently occurring is required to reduce vulnerability to future climate change. There are barriers, limits and costs, but these are not fully understood.”

“The Florida Energy Commission believes there is enough ‘green’ to go around – by this, we mean that Florida does not have to choose between a green energy policy and a green economy. There are ways to make going green affordable for customers and profitable for power companies, while still protecting the environment. Senator Lee Constantine had this in mind when he wrote the 2006 Senate Bill 888, which created the Florida Energy Commission. Fortunately, the Florida Legislature had the foresight to pass the bill.

“The Florida Energy Commission is aware that as a peninsular state, Florida has an increased need for concern about the effects climate change. By way of its Advisory Group on Climate Change, the Florida Energy Commission has been in the process of addressing global warming in several ways:

- It has and continues to consult with state and nationally renowned scientists and climate-change specialists.

- It has encouraged members of the public to participate in its process of developing energy policy recommendations on climate change and other energy topics for its December report.

“Dr. Todd Sack, chairman of the Advisory Group on Climate Change, along with Commission members and staff, has utilized a public-involvement process that will ultimately produce for the Florida Legislature a climate-change-focused set of energy policy recommendations, including draft legislative language.

“During our full Commission and advisory group meetings, members of the public have conveyed an urgent desire to reduce the time spent planning for climate change, and to expedite action to mitigate and adapt to it. In response, the Florida Energy Commission is strategically working to recommend ways to bring energy-saving technologies thought to be years away from implementation within closer reach.

“The Florida Energy Commission is a primary legislative component of state leadership’s initiative to give Floridians a clean, affordable and dependable energy future. The Florida Energy Commission has the utmost respect for all public and private entities that have an interest in energy, and has conveyed its desire to partner with them in providing Floridians with the best possible solutions to climate change and to energy as a whole.”

“The Florida Energy Commission will address climate change, conservation, efficiency and energy supply and delivery at its next meeting, to be held May 11 at 10 a.m. at the Florida Solar Energy Center, located at 1679 Clearlake Rd, Cocoa, FL 32922. Meeting attendees will be given a tour of the Florida Solar Energy Center. Meeting and tour details will be released at a later date.

About the Commission

The Florida Energy Commission is a nine-member panel jointly appointed by the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives. It is charged with recommending to the Florida Legislature the best ways to secure Florida’s energy future using the guiding principles of reliability, efficiency, affordability and diversity.

The Commission’s immediate focus is on renewable energy sources, climate change, and conservation. But these aspects only comprise a few steps of our ultimate plan which will include generation and transmission to address Florida’s long-term energy needs and goals.

By Dec. 31, the FEC will develop a report that will document its progress, and make the first of an ongoing series of recommendations designed to help guide the Florida Legislature in choosing best practices and options for Florida’s energy future.

Visit the Florida Energy Commission’s Web site at www.floridaenergycommission.gov.

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